

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated hereafter. [Use ~~strikethrough~~ for deleted matter (or double square brackets "[]" if the strikethrough is not easily perceivable, *i.e.*, "4" or a punctuation mark) and underlined for added matter.]

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A protector device (1) for protecting electrical equipment against voltage surges, the device comprising:

a protector unit (2) connected to the electrical equipment via a connection ~~circuit (3)~~,
circuit (3);

said ~~circuit comprising~~ connection circuit comprising:

a first connector (3A) connected to the electrical ~~equipment~~, equipment;

a second connector (3C) connected to the protector ~~unit (2)~~, unit (2); and

electric current interrupter means (4) movable between a return position

corresponding to the circuit (3) being open-circuit, and a position

corresponding to the circuit (3) being ~~elosed~~, closed;

said interrupter means (4) ~~comprising~~ comprising:

a rod (4A) extending between a first end (4B) provided with catch means (4C) and a
second ~~end (4D)~~, end (4D); and

said rod (4A) being mounted to slide axially and resiliently between a first abutment

position which is also a return position corresponding to the circuit (3) being

open-circuit, and a second abutment position corresponding to the circuit (3)

being ~~elosed~~, closed;

said catch means (4C) co-operating with blocker means (5) to hold the rod (4A) in its second

abutment ~~position~~, position;

said device further comprising a bimetallic strip (6) ~~and being characterized in that~~ wherein

the second end (4D) of the rod (4A) is provided with a contact element (7)

establishing electrical contact between the first and second connectors (3A, 3C) when

the rod is in its second abutment position, the bimetallic strip (6) being firstly arranged

in the device so as to be sensitive to the heat given off by the protector unit (2), and

being secondly designed in such a manner that when the temperature of the protector

unit (2) reaches a predetermined critical value, the bimetallic strip produces a

deactivation force for deactivating the blocker means (5) so as to cause the interrupter means (4) to pass into its position in which the connection circuit (3) is open-circuit.

2. (Currently Amended) A The device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that it~~ wherein the device includes a single bimetallic strip (6).
3. (Currently Amended) A The device according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2, characterized in that~~ wherein the bimetallic strip (6) does not form part of the connection circuit (3).
4. (Currently Amended) A The device according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein one of ends (6A) of the bimetallic strip (6) is mounted to be stationary relative to the first and second connectors (3A, 3C), while the other end (6B) is free and is provided with an abutment (5) forming the blocker means, said bimetallic strip (6) being arranged to bend when the predetermined temperature is reached, and by bending to produce the deactivation force enabling the abutment (5) to be moved away from the catch means (4C), thereby interrupting co-operation between them.
5. (Currently Amended) A The device according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the protector unit (2) comprises at least one varistor.
6. (Currently Amended) A The device according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the bimetallic strip (6) is mounted in the device by a cold assembly method such as clip-fastening, crimping, or riveting.
7. (Currently Amended) A The device according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the current interrupter means (4) is resettable.
8. (Currently Amended) A The device according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ further comprising a first module with the protector unit (2, 20), and a second module with the interrupter means (4, 40) and the bimetallic strip (6), connector means being provided between the modules so as to enable them to be functionally associated in separable manner.